

# Webinar

# POWER TO CO-PRODUCE:

## *Careful Power Distribution in Collaborative City-Making* **Practices / Pedagogies / Policies**

Organised by Burcu Ateş, Predrag Milić, Laura Sobral and Sabine Knierbein,  
Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space,  
Technische Universität Wien, Austria

**14th September 2020**

Whether you are a student or an urban scholar, an activist or a local community leader, a decision maker or a policy designer, please register and take part in this collective attempt to widen up the debate on collaborative city-making by exploring its multiple interrelated dimensions.

For taking part in the webinar, please register until 10th September 2020 via email to [webinar2020@skuor.tuwien.ac.at](mailto:webinar2020@skuor.tuwien.ac.at)



future.lab

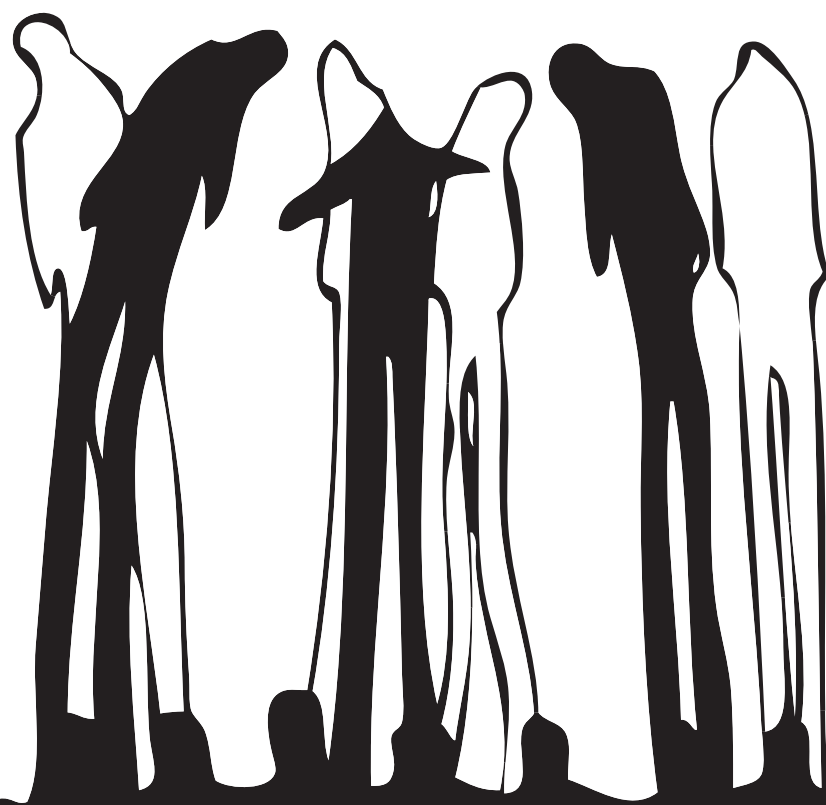


AESOP



Technische Universität Wien  
Department für Raumplanung  
Arbeitsbereich Stadtkultur und öffentlicher Raum

raum skuor



\*This event is realized in the course of the KTH + TU Wien Visiting Professorship Program in Urban Studies 2019-2021 and will be featured by the AESOP Thematic Group for Public Spaces and Urban Cultures.

# Webinar

## **POWER TO CO-PRODUCE:**

### *Careful Power Distribution in Collaborative City-Making*

#### **Session 1 – Co-Production Practices**

**9:30-11:00 CET**

#### **Session Moderator**

Predrag Milić, MSc-MA, Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space, TU Wien

The session on urban co-production practices will seek to examine how voices of the unheard and politically underrepresented communities may gain resonance and leverage power in reaching their local community goals. How to raise a voice for one's own position in the city-making process - as opposed to against the imposed process - by moving beyond political dichotomies of North-South, periphery-centre, legal-illegal, will be at the core of this session's interest. The session will be guided by the question of whose knowledge counts in urban co-production processes. The goal of the session will be to seek critical linkages between different practices with the pedagogies and policies that foster power distribution in city-making. With a particular focus on southern and feminist epistemologies in urban studies, the session welcomes contributions questioning and showcasing contemporary co-production practices and their linkages to the wider socio-political contexts.

#### **Rapporteur:**

Kathrin Wildner, Prof. Dr., Kultur der Metropolen, HafenCity Universität Hamburg

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## **POWER TO CO-PRODUCE:**

### *Careful Power Distribution in Collaborative City-Making*

#### **Session 2 - Pedagogies of Co-Production**

**11:30-13:00 CET**

#### **Session Moderator**

Burcu Ateş, MArch, Middle East Technical University-Başkent University and TU Wien

The debate on the social production of space, therefore on city-making processes, has been critically examined by urban professionals and practitioners (architects, planners, urban designers, urbanists) who have pursued a more relational professional practice by prioritising professional ethics, socio-political commitments and socio-spatiality of care towards marginalised and unheard communities. Aiming at learning from the experiences of urban co-production towards socially just cities, this session will seek to examine the pedagogical principles, methods and educational tools promoted and experienced by urban professionals and practitioners to foster power distribution in city-making. The session is centred around the idea of rethinking spatial professional practice beyond its traditional disciplinary boundaries; how do relational pedagogies enable urban professionals to design critically through applying methods and tools informed by spatial arts, critical spatial practice, activism as well as feminist theories and Southern ethics of inquiry? Positioning the urban professional as a social agent who mediates and facilitates urban co-production processes, the session addresses contributions exhibiting relational pedagogical approaches applied in different contexts, formats and networks of spatial design.

#### **Rapporteur:**

Giovanni Allegretti, Prof Dr., Centre for Social Studies of the Coimbra University

# Webinar

## **POWER TO CO-PRODUCE:**

### ***Careful Power Distribution in Collaborative City-Making***

#### **Session 3 – Policies of Co-Production**

**14:00-15:30 CET**

#### **Session Moderator:**

Laura Sobral, Msc, Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies of ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa and TU Wien

It is urgent to add more voices to the city-making process. Against consultative approaches, either open to all citizens or a sample, several scholars have argued that when participation remains only in the consultative environment, it is more likely to maintain status quo, without clear commitments made with transparency and responsibility. Participation could be supplementary or fruitless when approached as mere information or consultation. Yet, active participation can have more incidence and potential for social change when citizens can integrate their knowledge and action into applicable results that generate transformation. Considering this, some cities' authorities have recently started to reinforce the collective production (co-production) of the urban space, developing public policies that recognise the agency of active citizens and allow cooperation agreements between the local public administration and active citizens, which result in co-production and co-governance of the local qualification and regeneration processes using different means of action. Recently, these policies have begun to inspire similar policies in other cities. This session welcomes scholars who have been reflecting upon these processes and their inherent ambivalences, policy-makers who are open to political innovation in this direction, researchers seeking to understand how power relations are involved in urban co-production, and activists that work to deepen the democracy in city-making processes through shared management of the urban commons and public space. The debate will address the limits, pitfalls and possibilities of urban co-production approaches that municipalities may develop to answer citizens' claims for opportunities to be active in city-making.

#### **Rapporteur:**

Rob Shields, Prof. Dr., HM Tory Chair, University of Alberta

# Webinar

## **POWER TO CO-PRODUCE:** *Careful Power Distribution in Collaborative City-Making*

### PROGRAMME

#### **Opening Session**

**8:45-9:30 CET**

8:45 CET Get-to-Gether Online

9:00 CET Welcoming Words on behalf of TU Wien: Prof. Dr. Sabine Knierbein

9:10 CET Welcoming Words on behalf of Webinar Organisers: Burcu Ateş, Predrag Milić and Laura Sobral

#### **Session 1 – Co-Production Practices**

**9:30-11:00 CET**

Session Programme

9:30 CET: Introduction by Session Moderator

9:40 CET: 3 Presentations incl. Q&A

10:40 CET: Group Debates - Zoom Break Out Sessions

10:50 CET: Rapport

- break and possibility for informal chat -

#### **Session 2 - Pedagogies of Co-Production**

**11:30-13:00 CET**

session programme:

11:30 CET: Introduction by Session Moderator

11:40 CET: Presentations by Speakers incl. Q&A

12:40 CET: Group Debates - Zoom Break Out Sessions

12:50 CET: Rapport

- break and possibility for informal chat -

#### **Session 3 – Policies of Co-Production**

**14:00-15:30 CET**

session programme:

14:00 CET: Introduction by Session Moderator

14:10 CET: Presentations by Speakers incl. Q&A

15:10 CET: Group Debates - Zoom Break Out Sessions

15:20 CET: Rapport

#### **Closing Session - Urban Trialogue**

**15:30-16:00 CET**

session programme:

15:30-15:45 CET: Wrap-ups by Rapporteurs

15:45-16:00 CET: Interim Summary by Webinar Organisers

# Webinar

## **POWER TO CO-PRODUCE:** *Careful Power Distribution in Collaborative City-Making*

**Power to co-produce** is a collective attempt to widen up the debate on collaborative city-making. The basic premise of the webinar is that power is immanent in urban development processes, also in those procedures that rely on participatory and inclusive, so-called 'co-productive' forms of collaboratively shaping the city (city-making). Therefore, a fairer distribution of power requires first a deep analytical understanding of how power works in co-production processes. The webinar-type symposium follows a multidimensional approach, distinguishing between (1) practices, (2) pedagogies and (3) policies. The webinar brings these often separated dimensions of city-making together. Participatory collaboration in city-making encompasses co-production of place and knowledge developed by local groups, means of legitimacy created to get their voice heard and the process of achieving the co-governance of local urban commons. Co-production may also be considered as a collaborative research method, challenging the existing distribution of power in science and scientific institutions, and presenting other possibilities to subvert the processes through which ideas get generated, and knowledge is associated. Recognising the process of co-production of urban space as a process in which power relations are negotiated requires a multidimensional approach that goes beyond considering co-production simply as a form of practice.

This open webinar is an attempt to establish a dialogical relationship between different perspectives on the interplay of power relations and collaborative city-making processes focusing on local processes of co-production and civic engagement, particularly of the marginalised communities. By recognising (1) practices, (2) pedagogies and (3) policies, and interrelations among the involved actors and institutions, it is expected to broaden debates on participatory collaboration in city-making processes. Specifically, it is expected to reveal the democratic aspects of city-making by revisiting existing power discrepancies that shape careful urban development processes. To achieve this, the organisers of the webinar aim at distinguishing possibilities, limitations and also pitfalls of urban co-production.

The webinar in particular aims at exploring and discussing urban co-production processes to amplify the voices of the unheard, see how they themselves manoeuvre within the dynamics of power relations enmeshed in participatory planning and inclusive urbanism, thereby seeking to decolonise the processes of the social production of space, by revisiting the role of the most marginalised participants within the existing set of power relations. If power is ubiquitous in city-making processes, then urban scholars have to understand how and to what extent power distribution in urban development can be rearranged in a context-specific setting, and in careful and socially just way. The webinar will therefore critically explore urban co-production processes considering spatial justice, alongside southern and feminist approaches in city-making.

By inviting scholars and practitioners from corresponding fields, this POWER TO CO-PRODUCE webinar addresses

- how local communities struggle for power (power over, power to, power from...) in reaching their goals;
- in what way urban professionals can provide space, methods and tools for marginalised voices to be heard and for vulnerable populations to empower themselves;
- to what extent policy-makers can enable processes of co-production in city-making to ensure the constant democratisation of city-making processes.

The webinar seeks to bring together planning and urbanism researchers, activists, critical spatial practitioners alongside with urban scholars, and others to reflect and discuss potentials, possibilities as well as limitations and pitfalls of urban co-production processes.

Structured in three sessions, the webinar will focus on learning from urban co-production processes between policy-makers, professionals and local communities, and ask: How can urban co-production of space and knowledge go beyond contemporary pitfalls in the collaborative city making and how can communities on the one hand and urban professionals on the other enable the accompanied experience and knowledge to circulate among and between these actors in more context-specific, careful and socially just ways?

As an exchange platform that emerged among scholars from different geographical registers hosted by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space, TU Wien, Austria, this webinar is the first event marking the starting point of a wider research process. It will take place on 14th September 2020. Interested colleagues can register for a limited number of e-places via [webinar2020@skuor.tuwien.ac.at](mailto:webinar2020@skuor.tuwien.ac.at) and will receive a link to participate shortly before the event. The webinar will also be broadcasted live (link will be sent prior to the event) and published as a podcast via Urban Dialogue Project.

This event is realised in the course of the KTH + TU Wien Visiting Professorship Program in Urban Studies 2019-2021 and will be featured by the AESOP Thematic Group for Public Spaces and Urban Cultures.